

thing when we are asked to teach a Sunday school class or lead an Endeavor meeting; but oh, how much joy grows out of it. Life is not made up of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things in which smiles and goodness, and small obligations given habitually are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort. If we recognized God's hand in every experience and did each hour's work as unto him, how full of joyful service our lives would be. And what is the keynote of it all? Love. When our hearts are full of love for God and for our neighbor how easy all service seems.

"For Christ and the church we pray,
And labor day by day
With zeal and courage new
We'll strive some work to do,
And keep our covenant true,
For Christ and the church."

The Christian Life

I Do Not Ask, O Lord

I do not ask, O Lord, that life may be
A pleasant road;
I do not ask that thou would'st take from me
Aught of its load.
I do not ask that flowers should always spring
Beneath my feet;
I know too well the poison and the sting
Of things too sweet.
For one thing only, Lord, dear Lord, I plead:
Lead me aright,
Thou strength should falter and the heart should bleed,
Thru peace to light.
I do not ask, O Lord, that thou should'st shed
Full radiance here;
Give me but a ray of peace, that I may tread
Without a fear.
I do not ask my cross to understand,
My way to see;
Better in darkness just to feel thy hand
And follow thee.
Joy is like restless day; but peace divine
Like quiet night.
Lead me, O Lord, till perfect day shall shine,
Thru peace to light.

—Adelaide Proctor.

How to Encourage People

The Watchman.

It is a great art to know how to administer encouragement wisely. Perhaps the best you can do for any one who is in perplexity and difficulty is to manifest your faith in him. The secret of discouragement is self-distrust. The man thinks that he has done all he can or fears that he will fail. The friend who shows that he believes in him sends him away with a new inspiration and confidence. It is a capital mistake to seek to encourage people by understanding their trials. You say to your friend, "O, that is nothing at all; you can do that easily enough," and you have made his burden heavier. The difficulty is a real one to him. You cannot help him until you take his point of view and see how hard the conditions are in his conception of them. Then you can encourage him, and you will do it by telling him that you understand the difficulty, but that you believe that he can conquer it. Then you have appealed to the man,

with the man. He knows that some one understands him, and the next time you meet him he will say by his glowing face: "I thank you! It was hard, but I did it. I did it because you believed in me, and that made me believe in myself."

I Will Not Be Afraid

Dr. O. F. Presbrey.

Some years ago I stood at the mouth of one of the Chicago tunnels, showing my little son the dark passageways under the river. As he peered into the darkness he seemed frightened and held my hand with a firmer grasp. I said to him, "You would not dare go thru that dark, gloomy place, would you?" Looking into my face confidently, he replied, "Papa, if you would go with me, and I could hold your hand, I would not be afraid." His childish faith and confidence that he was safe while clinging to his father's hand was a lesson to me that I have never forgotten. It has taught me that no matter how dark and rayless a pathway I may be called to pass thru, or what doubts, trials, and difficulties confront me, there is One who says, "Fear thou not, for I am with thee: be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness" (Isa. 41:19.) The Saviour will dispel all fear, and lighten every burden, and enable me to say with the psalmist, "Yea, tho I walk thru the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4.) There are many dark places in life thru which you must pass. Is Jesus your guide and pilot?

Shading the Eyes

J. M. Ludlow.

We shade our eyes with the hand to shut out the glare of the strong daylight, when we want to see far away. God thus puts, as it were, His hand upon our brows, and tempers the glow of prosperity, that we may take in the wider phases of His goodness. It is a common experience that, looking out from the gloom of some personal affliction, men have seen for the first time beyond the earth-plane, and caught glimpses of the Beulah Land. Let us not shrink from the hand which we know is heavy only with blessing.

Mercy for the Greatest Sinner

United Presbyterian.

The mercy of God is wonderful. In our self complacency we may think ourselves deserving, and contemplate the mercy of God without emotion. But when we consider the nature of sin it is amazing that God ever turned toward us with compassion. We were lost, but it was by our own wandering.

We were under condemnation, but it was for our own willful transgression. We were strangers to the covenants of promise, but it was because we made ourselves aliens to them. There was separation between us and God, but it was because by our sins we had made ourselves loathsome in His sight. And yet there is mercy.

Mercy unsolicited! One may be alienated, and yet yield to the cry for pity. But no such cry went up from men. There was no turning of the heart to God, no imploring of His compassion and grace. The blind man cried out to the son of David, who was already near to him, but God revealed His grace before there was a prayer for mercy. There is no self repentant spirit in sin. Like other great forces, it moves in right lines in the direction of its impulse. It has no returning power. It belongs to its very nature, like the wandering star, to go further and further out into the darkness. God sought us out. The Shepherd followed. The Father yearned for us and waited.

Mercy for all! The voice of Jesus was new to the world, and His words touched chords before untouched. "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters; * * * yea, come and drink." "If any man thirst, let him come." These words are borne on the winds. Scented with the fragrance of love, they are borne to all the people. They come into the spacious palaces of the rich; they come into the bare rooms of the poor. The dwellers in Mesopotamia, in Egypt, in Asia, hear the wonderful words of God. There is no class spirit in Jesus; the poor, conscience-stricken woman had as easy access to Him as the Pharisee of high standing. There is no distinction in His mercy. "Thy sins be forgiven thee," were spoken as readily to the one whose sins were many as to the one whose friends did not think him a sinner.

The depths of the mercy of God! There is no one too low, too far sunken in iniquity, too hardened in sin. This was the burden of the apostle's rejoicing: "To me, who am less than the least of all saints;" "To me, the chief of sinners." "Whosoever" is the word of Jesus. That word reaches to the depths, and His ear is ever attentive to the cry from the depths. When we thus cry our argument is, "With Thee is plenteous redemption."

The Mission Field

The Cry of Fullest Asia

"Awake," saith Christ to Christians,
"In me and for me live;
To Asia's thronging millions
My seven-fold blessing give." Awake!
"Awake, we are your kinsmen,"
The sons of India say;
"Awake, nor leave us sleeping,"
Cry Dyak and Malay. Awake!
"Awake"—the voice is China's—
"Come thru our opening door;"
"Awake," Korea echoes,
A hermit land no more. Awake!
"Awake to our awakening,"
The isles of Nippon sing;
'Tis Asia's seven-fold summons,
"Awake, make Jesus King." Awake!
O Savior King, forgive us,
We are but half awake;
Forgive and rouse and fill us,
Thy seven-fold gift to take. Amen

—A. E. Humphreys.